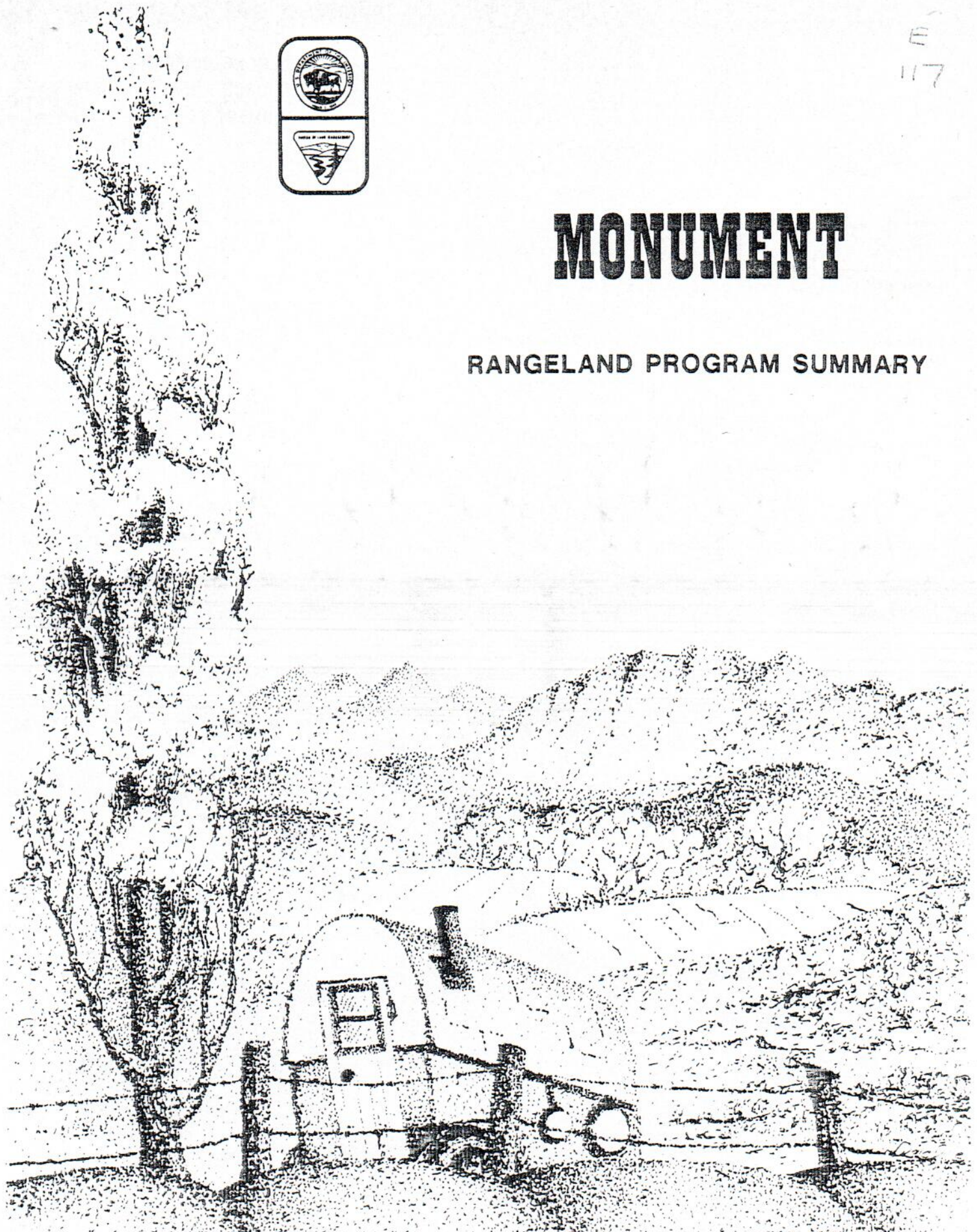




E
117

MONUMENT

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY



RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR THE MONUMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in December 1984. This summary document shows the rangeland management decisions to be implemented on the public lands included in the Monument RMP. Those decisions include: (1) the kind of livestock, (2) the period of grazing use, (3) the level of grazing use, and (4) the allotments within which grazing use will occur. This summary guides the expenditure of funds for the installation of range improvements on public lands. It also summarizes the rangeland monitoring and evaluation efforts to be made.

Background

A limited inventory, which included an update and refinement of available soils information, an assessment of range condition, and identification of problem areas and opportunities for improvement, was conducted on the major blocks of public land. This inventory enabled the BLM to sort allotments into three categories which help focus attention on areas of highest concern. Allotments in unsatisfactory condition or with significant resource conflicts but good potential for improvement are classified as "I", or Improve allotments. Allotments in satisfactory condition, or where conditions are significantly improving, are classified as "M", or Maintain, allotments. Allotments that have extremely low potential, or consist of small isolated tracts, are classified as "C", or Custodial, allotments. The category for each allotment is shown in Table 1. Of the 89 allotments, 18 are in category "M," 19 are in category "I," and 52 are in category "C."

Of the 1,178,989 acres of public land included in the Monument RMP, 918,212 acres are included in the 89 grazing allotments. The remaining 260,777 acres are mostly lava flows which are nearly devoid of vegetation and are unallotted. The current grazing preference is 149,135 animal unit months (AUMs). The five-year (1978-1982) average use has been 98,340 AUMs, which is 66 percent of current preference. The largest share of voluntary nonuse has been by sheep operators, but some nonuse has also been taken by cattle operators. The number of permittees and current preference for each allotment is shown in Table 1.

Proposed stocking rates were developed with the intention of providing vigorous, palatable rangeland vegetation on a sustained yield basis. This would provide for the physiological requirements of the vegetation so public rangeland can be maintained in a healthy, productive condition. Each

may be developed in addition to those shown. The additional plans would be developed in response to a future need, such as a request to convert from sheep to cattle preference or a specific request by a permittee for a grazing plan.

4. Allow Conversion From Sheep Preference to Cattle Preference

Market conditions may lead to requests that sheep AUMs be converted to cattle AUMs. All conversions will be consistent with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy (copies available at the Shoshone District Office). Previous commitments made in existing approved allotment management plans will be honored. A comprehensive plan for conversion, development, and management of the affected allotment will be prepared before the conversion is made. The amount of conversion will be in proportion to the suitability of the allotment for cattle grazing. All conversions will be conservative at the start to avoid overstocking. Further conversions will depend on the results of at least three years of monitoring studies. The season of grazing use will be fully considered. Livestock control features (e.g., fences and cattleguards) will be built before cattle are placed on the allotment, and sufficient water for cattle will need to be available in the allotment to allow for a given level of conversion.

5. Develop Rangeland Improvement Projects to Help Meet the Stated Objectives

Both structural and nonstructural range improvements are allowed under the plan. Table 2 shows range improvements proposed for 19 allotments. No range improvements are planned in allotments not shown on the table.

Two kinds of nonstructural improvements are proposed. Brush control to release native understory forage plants from sagebrush competition is proposed for 19,000 acres. Range seeding of grasses, forbs, and shrubs, either with or without pre-treatment, is planned for 25,500 acres.

Several kinds of structural range improvements are proposed. This includes 54 miles of fence, 24 cattleguards, 9 new wells, 74 miles of buried pipeline, and 110 new watering troughs. An additional 4 miles of new road is needed. Road maintenance, while not shown in Table 2, continues to be a necessary budget item.

A more detailed description of design features and construction practices to be employed throughout the Monument Planning Area is given on pages D-4 through D-7 of the final Monument EIS.

The range improvements shown in Table 2 are proposed, but are subject to the availability of range betterment funds. In addition, proposed improvements will be assigned a priority based on the allotment's management category (M, I, or C), the willingness of the range operator to contribute to the improvement, and upon benefit/cost analysis. The benefit/cost ratio is improved when livestock operators contribute money, material, or labor to a project. The proposed range improvements place no obligation on the BLM and no promise for their completion is given or implied.

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT AND PREFERENCE LEVEL BY ALLOTMENT

Allotment		Mgmt. 1/	AMP 2/	Number of	Kind of	Season of Use		Current 3/	Proposed 4/	Degree of
Name	Number	Status	Status	Permittees	Livestock	From	To	Preference	Preference	Adjustment
<u>Bennett Hills Resource Area</u>										
Antelope	0918	I	PRO	1	Sheep	04/16	06/15	543	645	+ 19%
					Sheep	11/10	12/31	841	999	+ 19%
Barren	0930	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	05/15	36	0	-100%
					Cattle	11/01	11/30	36	0	-100%
Big Wood	0936	C	---	1	Cattle	10/01	12/05	12	9	- 25%
Blue Lakes	1009	C	---	1	Cattle	02/17	03/15	20	0	-100%
Briggs Creek	1006	C	---	1	Cattle	05/03	10/15	11	11	
Camp I	0921	M	AMP	3	Sheep	04/01	06/30	350	329	- 6%
					Sheep	10/16	12/31	268	252	- 6%
					Cattle	04/16	09/15	1,161	1,091	- 6%
Camp II	0928	C	---	1	Cattle	05/01	05/31	27	27	
					Cattle	06/01	08/31	41	41	
Camp III	1013	M	---	1	Cattle	03/16	04/15	38	0	-100%
Canyon	1011	I	AMP	2	Cattle	04/16	09/15	2,361	2,096	- 11%
Chute	0923	M	---	1	Cattle	04/16	09/22	68	68	
Common	0909	C	INF	2	Sheep	04/01	06/15	284	84	- 70%
					Sheep	11/10	12/31	284	83	- 71%
Dinky	0935	C	---	1	Cattle	11/01	11/30	80	80	
Flat Top 5/	1008	C	---	0						
Flume	0907	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	05/15	10	0	-100%
40-Acre	1021	C	---	1	Cattle	04/01	05/15	7	0	-100%
					Cattle	10/01	11/15	7	0	-100%
Good Time	0908	I	AMP	1	Sheep	04/01	06/15	383	346	- 10%
					Sheep	10/16	12/31	1,249	1,130	- 10%
					Cattle	04/10	06/01	1,127	1,019	- 10%
					Cattle	11/15	12/31	420	380	- 10%
Goose Lake	1014	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	12/15	6	6	
Gunnery	0914	I	PRO	1	Sheep	04/01	06/15	401	550	+ 37%
					Sheep	11/10	12/31	822	1,126	+ 37%
Hansen	1017	C	---	1	Horses	04/01	07/31	7	7	
Hazelton	1020	C	---	1	Cattle	04/24	09/24	50	27	- 46%
Hull	1001	C	---	1	Cattle	03/01	04/15	16	0	-100%
					Cattle	11/01	02/28	44	0	-100%
Hunt	0927	C	AMP	2	Cattle	05/01	09/30	326	326	
Jerome	0910	I	---	1	Cattle	05/01	09/16	91	89	- 2%
Junction	0903	C	---	1	Cattle	10/01	12/31	150	0	-100%
Lagoon	0937	C	---	1	Cattle	05/15	08/15	150	150	
Land Lock 5/	1007	M	---	0						
Lava Pot	0934	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	06/04	60	60	

TABLE 1 (Cont.)

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT AND PREFERENCE LEVEL BY ALLOTMENT

Name	Allotment Number	Mgmt. 1/ Status	AMP 2/ Status	Number of Permittees	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use		Current 3/ Preference	Proposed 4/ Preference	Degree of Adjustment
						From	To			
Tunupa	0915	I	AMP	2	Cattle	04/16	05/31	301	301	
					Cattle	10/16	11/30	218	218	
Tuttle	1004	C	---	1	Cattle	11/01	02/28	46	46	
Vineyard	1016	C	---	1	Cattle	05/01	08/31	200	25	- 88%
Weatherwax		C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	05/31	6	0	-100%
Wendell Cattle	0906	I	AMP	4	Cattle	04/16	09/25	2,681	1,149	- 57%
<u>Monument Resource Area</u>										
Bench	1201	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	09/15	45	45	
					Horses	04/16	09/15	15	15	
Borah	1202	I	---	1	Cattle	05/01	09/30	50	50	
Bowl Crater		C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	06/23	133	91	- 32%
Cedar Fields	1203	I	PRO	1	Cattle	04/16	09/15	395	466	+ 18%
					Horses	04/16	09/15	75	88	+ 17%
Crater Butte	0701	I	AMP	7	Cattle	04/16	08/31	1,527	1,454	- 5%
Dietrich Butte	0702	M	AMP	11	Cattle	04/16	08/31	5,419	5,398	- 1%
Dune	1204	C	---	1	Cattle	05/16	09/15	125	0	-100%
Eagle Rock	1205	I	---	1	Cattle	04/07	06/17		140	6/
East Dietrich	0703	C	INF	1	Cattle	04/16	06/30	115	0	-100%
					Cattle	09/16	11/15			
East Minidoka	1206	I	PRO	1	Cattle	04/01	12/15	4,430	3,075	- 31%
East Richfield	0704	C	---	1	Cattle	04/16	06/15	58	58	
80	0705	C	---	1	Cattle	05/01	05/31	11	0	-100%
Hawley	1207	C	INF	1	Cattle	04/16	08/15	99	0	-100%
Kimama	1208	M	PRO	5	Sheep	04/01	06/15	2,483	2,119	- 15%
					Sheep	10/16	12/31	3,283	2,802	- 15%
Laidlaw Park	0706	I	AMP	32	Cattle	04/16	06/23	7,053	7,679	+ 9%
					Sheep	04/16	06/15	2,519	2,742	+ 9%
					Sheep	10/16	12/15	3,487	3,796	+ 9%
Lake Channel	1209	M	AMP	8	Cattle	04/16	10/15	4,687	4,736	+ 1%
Minidoka	1210	M	PRO	14	Sheep	04/01	06/15	9,721	8,119	- 16%
					Sheep	10/16	12/31	9,087	7,589	- 16%
Norland	1211	C	---	1	Cattle	03/15	06/15	661	213	- 68%
Pagari	0707	I	AMP	8	Cattle	05/01	08/31	2,901	1,846	- 36%
Poison Lake	1212	M	INF	1	Cattle	04/01	06/15	1,356	915	- 33%
					Cattle	10/16	12/31	1,500	1,012	- 33%
					Sheep	04/01	06/15	162	109	- 33%
					Sheep	10/16	12/31	244	165	- 32%

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY ALLOTMENT 1/

Allotment Name Number		Nonstructural Improvements		Structural Improvements 2/					
		Brush 3/ Control (Acres)	Range 4/ Seeding (Acres)	Fence Construction (Miles)	Cattleguard Installation (Number)	Well Development (Number)	Pipeline Installation (Miles)	Watering Troughs (Number)	Road Construction (Miles)
<u>Bennett Hills RA</u>									
Antelope	0918	--	1,150	11.0	2	1	4.5	4	--
Good Time	0908	--	--	4.0	--	--	1.5	1	--
Gunnery	0914	--	1,500	4.2	2	--	1.0	5	--
Wendell Cattle	0906	--	2,250	2.6	--	--	3.8	3	--
<u>Monument RA</u>									
Cedar Fields	1203	--	750	--	1	--	1.0	2	--
Crater Butte	0701	--	4,500	1.8	2	--	4.0	4	--
Dietrich Butte	0702	--	--	8.4	3	--	4.5	5	--
Eagle Rock	1205	--	150	--	--	--	--	--	--
East Minidoka	1206	6,000	3,000	4.0	3	1	2.0	2	--
Kimama	1208	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Laidlaw Park	0706	13,000	6,700	13.0	2	1	15.0	26	2
Lake Channel	1209	--	150	--	2	1	1.2	2	--
Pagari	0707	--	500	5.0	1	--	6.0	8	--
Poison Lake	1212	--	--	--	--	1	5.0	5	--
Schodde	1215	--	2,500	--	--	1	2.0	4	--
Star Lake East	0708	--	--	--	--	--	15.0	26	--
Star Lake West	0709	--	--	--	4	--	7.0	12	--
Walcott	1216	--	150	--	2	--	0.5	1	--
Wildhorse	0711	--	2,200	--	--	2	--	--	2
TOTAL, 20 Allotments		19,000	25,500	54.0	24	9	74.0	110	4

1/ Only those allotments having proposed range improvements are shown in this table.

2/ Refer to Appendix D of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Monument Resource Management Plan, pages D-4 through D-7, for a description of each kind of structural improvement.

3/ "Brush Control" means the use of prescribed fire or chemical control of vegetation. The purpose is to release the native understory forage plants from sagebrush competition.

4/ "Range Seeding" means planting (normally by rangeland drill) of grasses, forbs, or shrubs, or a combination of those, on appropriate sites. The planting may occur on either untreated areas or on areas pretreated by fire, plowing, disking, or other suitable means to remove brush or annual plant competition.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.